Amendments in the Air Corporation Act

*209. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services by the private air taxi operators in the country have now been established as "illegal' as they contravened the Air Corporation Act;

(b) if so, whether the monopoly of Indian Airlines and Air India have been established vis a vis private air taxi operators;

(c) whether Government propose to make necessary amendments in the Act; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per existing guidelines air taxi operations in India are permitted on charter and/or non-scheduled basis, Section 18 of the Air Corporations Act makes it unlawful for any one other than the Corporations or their associates to operate any scheduled air transport service, except in certain circumstances provided for in the Act.

(c) and (d) A bill to repeal the Air Corporations Act has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4.5.1992.

Strike Call by Bank Employees

*210. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions in Banks; Insurance Companies and Financial Institutions has given a call for a general strike on May 11 and 12 in support of their demands;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the proposed strike; and

(c) whether Government have tried or would try for a negotiated settlement of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions in Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions comprising, among others, All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), Bank Employees Federation of India (DEFI) and All India Reserve Bank Employees Association (AIRBEA) had given a call for a general strike on May 11 and 12 in support of the following main demands :—

(i) Introduction of pension as 3rd retiral benefit;

(ii) Early wage revision;

(iii) Bonus to all employees; and

(iv) Withdrawal of alleged move for privatisation.

The IBA has intimated that the Joint Action Committee has since called off the strike and their representatives will be attending the bipartite negotiations to be held on 20th and 21st May, 1993.

Construction of Tourism related projects in Rajasthan

*211. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little progress has been made for construction of tourist accommodation

and other tourism related projects like Golf Courses, amusement parks, recreational activities and adventure sports activities in Rajasthan under the Tourism Infrastructure under the "Equity Scheme" of the Central Department of Tourism;

(b) if so, whether any survey for identification of suitable places has been done so far under the above scheme;

(c) what amount has been spent since 17th August, 1992 the date from which this scheme came into force by TFCI and other financial institutions; and

(d) what are the details of present pattern of funding in respect of State of Rajasthan during the year 1993-94?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan or Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation for central financial assistance under the equity support scheme of the Central Department of Tourism from the date of introduction of this scheme till date.

(d) Under the normal funding pattern of the centre, the financial assistance is extended for creation of super-structure to augment tourist facilities which include civil work, internal electrification, internal water supply and sanitary fittings, etc.

Recovery of arms in Bombay

*212. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1679 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports published in the weekend Observer of April 3, 1993 and Times of India of April, 14, 1993 about the recovery of huge quantities of smuggled explosives in Mumbra near Kalyan, Nagala Bunder near Bombay and Salya in Jamnagar district and Raigad coastline;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the manner in which these arms and explosives were smuggled into the country;

(d) whether Government had received any reports from its Customs Intelligence Services;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter; and

(g) what effective steps have been taken by the Customs and other Intelligence Services to check smuggling of arms and explosives into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHER MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the details provided by the Bombay Police 1071.5 Kgs. of RDX explosive and 274 kgs. of geletine explosive, have been recovered.

(c) As per the report of Bombay Police, arms and explosives were smuggled through village of Shekhadi and Dighe in the Maharashtra Coast near Shrivardan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had alerted the preventive formations on likely landing of consignments of arms and ammunition on the West Coast.

(f) and (g) Customs and other intelligence Services, both of Central and State Governments concerned have